

RELIEF INTERNATIONAL – SCHOOLS ONLINE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES UPDATE

Nablu Center Hosts First Participatory Conference on Education



On the 27th November, RI-SOL's Nablus Community Based Learning and Action Center used the opportunity of International Education Week to host a unique conference to give students a stronger voice in education. The Nablus Center, created and sustained by the generous patronage of the American Consulate in Jerusalem, was proud to provide an opportunity in which students, teachers and officials from the Ministry of Education participated in a discussion about the educational needs in Palestine. Speeches were made by a variety of these educational professionals including Moaswyah Amar, the President of UNRWA schools in the Northern Region, Ibrahim Shareef from the Ministry of Education and Wisan Abuzant, a representative of the private school sector.



During the day, participants raised a wealth of issues including the concern of inadequate school and classroom environments and resources, teaching and learning methodologies, students who drop out of school and the educational curriculum. The event was a resourceful initiative, providing a cross section of students from public, private and UNWRA schools the opportunity to interact with educational officials and thus play a vital role in influencing their attitudes towards the current state of education.



The conference received extensive press coverage. An attending master teacher, Nojoud Al Betawi, was broadcast on Palestinian television saying "This project aims to connect students with decision making. Frankly, students are always excluded from participating in decision making which creates of gulf. There many issues students wish to address such as their relationship with teachers, dissatisfaction with the curriculum and teaching techniques." Furthermore, students enthusiastically appreciated this opportunity. One student commented, "We thank RI-SOL for their efforts to raise our voices with the ministry of education. I ask RI-SOL to follow up this conference by helping to make changes to our education system."